

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining demand-indicating data, the demand-indicating data including at least one of demand data and forecast data on the transactional subject.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining inventory-tracking data, the inventory-tracking data including at least one of consumption data and inventory data.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the generating comprises generating an order as the business decision, the order being for the transactional subject based on the requirement-indicating data.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the generating comprises generating a shipping instruction as the business decision, the

shipping instruction being for the transactional subject based on the requirement indicating data.

Claims 6-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 43 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting superseding requirement-indicating data on an as-needed basis to replace prior requirement-indicating data at the second business entity.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 43 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 43 wherein the generating comprises generating the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity.

Claims 11-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 46 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the extensible mark-up language document as the demand indicating data over the communications network.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15 further comprising:  
  
receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and  
  
translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system.

Claim 17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 46 further comprising displaying the demand-indicating data for a user affiliated with one of the first business entity and the second business entity.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 46 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change the manufactured quantity of a material as the transactional subject.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[14]] 46 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change a supply of material to fulfill a firm demand derived from the demand-indicating data.

21. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[14]] 46 wherein the obtaining includes obtaining one of demand data and forecast data with respect to the transactional subject.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[14]] 46 wherein the first business entity represents a customer of a material as the transactional subject and wherein the second business entity represents a supplier of the material.

Claims 23-33 (canceled)

34. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the business decision comprises an order processing decision.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the order processing decision comprises procuring a production material for either said first business entity or said second business entity.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 43 wherein the business decision comprises engaging in a commercial transaction involving the transactional subject.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 36 wherein the commercial transaction comprises purchase of the transactional subject.

Claims 38-42 (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A method for planning a business decision, the method comprising:

obtaining requirement-indicating data of a first entity with respect to a transactional subject, wherein the obtaining comprises extracting a subset of the requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an enterprise resource planning system, The method according to claim 7 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data;

automatically transmitting the obtained requirement-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;

automatically feeding the transmitted requirement-indicating data into an electronic processor for monitoring the transactional subject, the electronic processor being

associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and  
generating a business decision of the first business entity and the second  
business entity that is based on the requirement-indicating data and that is made solely by  
the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual  
data extraction from the electronic processing system.

44. (currently amended) A method for planning a business decision, the  
method comprising:  
obtaining requirement-indicating data of a first entity with respect to  
a transactional subject, wherein the obtaining comprises extracting a subset of the  
requirement-indicating data from a requirement-indicating database associated with an  
enterprise resource planning system, The method according to claim 7 wherein the  
extracting process is based on a process based on a model for managing the transactional  
subject;  
automatically transmitting the obtained requirement-indicating data from a  
first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;  
automatically feeding the transmitted requirement-indicating data into an  
electronic processor for monitoring the transactional subject, the electronic processor being  
associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and  
generating a business decision of the first business entity and the second  
business entity that is based on the requirement-indicating data and that is made solely by

the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic processing system.

Claim 45 (canceled)

46. (currently amended) A method for planning a business decision, the method comprising:

obtaining demand-indicating data with respect to a transactional subject,

wherein the obtaining comprises:

extracting a relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a database, The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on previous history of usefulness of prior extracted data; and

formatting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document;

automatically transmitting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;

automatically feeding the transmitted demand-indicating data into an electronic processor for tracking the demand-indicating data, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and

generating a business decision of at least one of the first business entity and

the second business entity that is based on the demand-indicating data and that is made solely by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic data processing system.

47. (currently amended) A method for planning a business decision, the method comprising:

obtaining demand-indicating data with respect to a transactional subject, wherein the obtaining comprises:

extracting a relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a database. The method according to claim 14 wherein the extracting process is based on a process based on a model for managing the transactional subject; and

formatting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data into an extensible mark-up language document;

automatically transmitting the extracted relevant portion of the demand-indicating data from a first business entity to a second business entity over a communications network;

automatically feeding the transmitted demand-indicating data into an electronic processor for tracking the demand-indicating data, the electronic processor being associated with an electronic processing system of the second business entity; and

generating a business decision of at least one of the first business entity and the second business entity that is based on the demand-indicating data and that is made



solely by the electronic processing system without the need for manual data entry into or manual data extraction from the electronic data processing system.

48. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining demand-indicating data, the demand-indicating data including at least one of demand data and forecast data on the transactional subject.

49. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the obtaining comprises obtaining inventory-tracking data, the inventory-tracking data including at least one of consumption data and inventory data.

50. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the generating comprises generating an order as the business decision, the order being for the transactional subject based on the requirement-indicating data.

51. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the generating comprises generating a shipping instruction as the business decision, the shipping instruction being for the transactional subject based on the requirement indicating data.

52. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting superseding requirement-indicating data on an as-needed basis to replace prior requirement-indicating data at the second business entity.

53. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting differential data for expressing a change with respect to prior requirement indicating data at the second business entity.

54. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the generating comprises generating the business decision on production of the transactional subject based on an exchange of the requirement-indicating data at a regular interval, the regular interval having a duration that depends upon a nature of the business of the first business entity and the second business entity.

55. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the business decision comprises an order processing decision.

56. (new) The method according to claim 55 wherein the order processing decision comprises procuring a production material for either said first business entity or said second business entity.

57. (new) The method according to claim 44 wherein the business decision comprises engaging in a commercial transaction involving the transactional subject.

58. (new) The method according to claim 57 wherein the commercial transaction comprises purchase of the transactional subject.

59. (new) The method according to claim 47 wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the extensible mark-up language document as the demand indicating data over the communications network.

60. (new) The method according to claim 59 further comprising:  
receiving the transmitted extensible mark-up language document; and  
translating the extensible mark-up language document into a data format compatible with an enterprise planning resource system.

61. (new) The method according to claim 47 further comprising displaying the demand-indicating data for a user affiliated with one of the first business entity and the second business entity.

62. (new) The method according to claim 47 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change the manufactured quantity of a material as the transactional subject.

63. (new) The method according to claim 47 wherein the business decision comprises deciding to change a supply of material to fulfill a firm demand derived from the demand-indicating data.

64. (new) The method according to claim 47 wherein the obtaining includes obtaining one of demand data and forecast data with respect to the transactional subject.

65. (new) The method according to claim 47 wherein the first business entity represents a customer of a material as the transactional subject and wherein the second business entity represents a supplier of the material.